United Nations A/C.4/71/L.1

General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/71/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-first session (A/71/100).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls upon each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. The General Assembly decided that the seventy-first session should recess on Monday, 12 December 2016, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Tuesday, 8 November 2016 (see A/71/250, paras. 15 and 16).

4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that they may be revised periodically, as appropriate. The Committee will also consider certain items on its agenda jointly in order to ensure the full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, the conference services have allocated 25 meetings to the Committee and have urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the time allotted. Should the Committee wish to change the dates on which it considers items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see A/71/251.

Please recycle

Date/time	*Programme*
Week of 26-30 September	
Thursday, 29 September	
10-11 a.m.	Organization of work
	Approval of programme of work
	Approval of time limits for statements
	Establishment of the Working Group of the Whole
	Consideration of aide-memoire containing requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories
Week of 3-7 October	
Monday, 3 October	
3 p.m.	Introductory statements and joint general debate on decolonization items:
	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 54)
	Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 55)
	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 56)
	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 57)
	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 58)
	Approval of requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on decolonization items
	Deadline for submission of proposals on decolonization items
Tuesday, 4 October	
3 p.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

Date/time	*Programme*
Wednesday, 5 October	
3 p.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee
Thursday, 6 October	
3 p.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee
	Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continued*)
Friday, 7 October	
3 p.m.	Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continued*)
Week of 10-14 October	
Monday, 10 October	
10 a.m.	Joint general debate on decolonization items (*concluded*)
	Action on proposals submitted under decolonization items
Tuesday, 11 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statement and general debate on:
	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 48)
	Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
Wednesday, 12 October	
10 a.m.	**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 48)**
	Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)
Thursday, 13 October	
10 a.m.	**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 48)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
Friday, 14 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statement, interactive dialogue and general debate on:
	Questions relating to information (item 53)

Date/time	*Programme*
Week of 17-21 October	
	(Action on proposals relating to item 48 is expected in the week of 24-28 October)
Tuesday, 18 October	
3 p.m.	**Questions relating to information (item 53)**
	General debate (*continued*)
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 53
Wednesday, 19 October	
3 p.m.	**Questions relating to information (item 53)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
	Action on proposals
Thursday, 20 October	
3 p.m.	Introductory statement, interactive dialogue and general debate on:
	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 51)
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 51
Friday, 21 October	
3 p.m.	**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 51)**
	General debate (*continued*)
Week of 24-28 October	
Tuesday, 25 October	
10 a.m.	**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 51)**
	General debate (*continued*)
Wednesday, 26 October	
10 a.m.	**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 51)**
	General debate (*concluded*)

Date/time	*Programme*
Thursday, 27 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statements, general debate and action on proposal on:
	Comprehensive review of special political missions (item 52)
Friday, 28 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statements, general debate and action on proposal on:
	Effects of atomic radiation (item 47)
Week of 31 October-4 November	
Monday, 31 October	
3 p.m.	Introductory statements, question-and-answer period and general debate on:
	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 50)
Tuesday, 1 November	
3 p.m.	**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 50)**
	General debate (*continued*)
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on items 49 and 50
	Deadline for submission of proposals on all outstanding items
Wednesday, 2 November	
3 p.m.	Introductory statement, question-and-answer period and general debate on:
	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 49)
Thursday, 3 November	
10 a.m.	**United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 49)**
	General debate (*concluded*)

Date/time	*Programme*
Friday, 4 November	
10 a.m. (if needed)	**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 50)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
Week of 7-11 November	
Tuesday, 8 November	
10 a.m.	**United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 49)**
	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 50)
	Introduction of and action on proposals
	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 121)
	Proposed programme of work and timetable for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly and consideration of working methods
	Programme planning (item 135)
	Action on proposals on all outstanding agenda items
	Conclusion of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the main part of the session

5. In the preparation of the timetable above, the Chair was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 54 to 58 and individual debates on agenda items 47 to 53, 121 and 135, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items, and the Chair suggests that the Committee devote its meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 4, 5 and 6 October, to the hearing of petitioners;

(c) Item 121, Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, is allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programme of work;

(d) Item 135, Programme planning, is allocated to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly to enhance the discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports. If the Assembly allocates any report submitted under this item to the Fourth Committee, the Committee shall revert to this item.

6. Subject to the provisional programme of work above being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chair wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering the following agenda items be closed as follows:

Items 54 to 58: Monday, 3 October, at 6 p.m.

Item 53: Tuesday, 18 October, at 6 p.m.

Item 51: Thursday, 20 October, at 6 p.m.

The Committee will take decisions on the closure of the list of speakers relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chair also wishes to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/71/250, sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the decision of the General Assembly that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively, both for plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the seventy-first session. The attention of the members is also drawn to the decision of the Assembly to waive, at its seventy-first session, the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chair to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/71/250, paras. 17 and 21).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes. In this connection, the Chair will set the time limit for the petitioners as it is deemed necessary.

10. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document A/C.4/71/INF/1, which will be updated as necessary.